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Kentucky Crazy Things Pace Dayton Regatta

By CARL HOWARD
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The boat racing Sterett family of Owensboro, Ky., is just crazy about "Crazy Things." But there is nothing crazy about the way the "Crazy Things" win races.

Approximately 15,000 boat racing fans saw the "Crazy Things" and the Steretts along with 75 other powerboats and drivers from several states roar into action at the Dayton Powerboat Regatta at Eastwood lake yesterday.

William Sterett, father of the racing family, and national points champion in the 7 Litre class, teamed up with son William Jr., 19, to win the two-heat limited Class H race with a 96.256 six-lap average, the fastest time of the day.

Their boat — "Miss Crazy Thing." Earlier, Jerry, 17, had finished in the money with his Class E, 280 cu. in. boat—"Miss Crazy Too."

Meanwhile in the pit area giving moral support was uncle Jim Sterett, pilot of a Ski Boat that couldn't make it to the race. Its name—"Crazy Thing."

And that's not all—"We are plamin' ga fourth 'Crazy Thing,'" said Terry, a high school senior.

THE STERETTS, owners of the Sterett Construction company in Owensboro, say they picked up the unique name by accident but hung on to it when they started winning races. "My aunt took one look at a half-finished ski boat we were building in the garage and asked, 'What are you going to call that crazy thing.' We have used that name ever since," said Jerry.

The name might have brought some luck too. Since then William Sr. has won the Southland Sweepstakes at St. Petersburg, Fla., the International Grand Prix at Miami, Fla., and five other smaller races. He hasn't lost a race since last October, and he holds the world's straight-away speed record of 151.403 miles per hour for the 7 Litre.

first place money in the S division.

Dick Boyer, of Germantown, won the smallest class, the nine-foot 48 cu. in. hydros, with a 68 mph average. His "Rif Raf" nosed out John Hoffman's "Tinkers Dam" in the straight-away to get the victory.

"We are well pleased with the way the race went off," said Vice Chairman of the race, Gene Whipp. "We will be back next year with a little less seaweed."

JJ Class: 1—Jon Culver, Dayton, O. (Glastron); 2—Cliff Reif, Dayton, O. (Stamper); 3—Charles Scruggs, Cincinnati, O. (The Pig).

Y Class (48 cubic inch hydroplane)
1—Richard Boyer, Germantown, O. (Rif Raf); 2—John Hoffman, Cold

Springs, Ky. (Tinker's Dam); 3—James Pauly, South Gate, Ky. (Miss D.P.).

S Class (145 cubic inch) 1—Jim Roberts, Dayton, O. (Wild One); 2—Danny Walls, Bellevue, Ky. (Warrior); 3—Jim Davies, Kettering, O.

A Class (150 cubic inch) 1—Jack Deye, Cincinnati, O. (Passion); 2—Edward Dzurik, Independence, O. (Soakin Wet); 3—Durb King, Covington, Ky. (Bon Bon).

N Class (225 cubic inch) 1—Ed Morgan Jr., Trenton, Mich. (High Winder); 2—Roger L. Schaller, Detroit, Mich. (Cobalt); 3—George English, Detroit, Mich. (Fat Chance).

F Class (266 cubic inch) 1—Durb King, Covington, Ky. (Bon Bon); 2—Mike Weiner, Cincinnati, O. (Ballyhoo); 3—Paul Schroeder, Cincinnati, O. (Scoundrel).

E Class (280 cubic inch) 1—Dean Chenoweth, Xenia, O. (Little Wide Track); 2—Jim McCormick, Owensboro, Ky. (Ex Calibur); 3—Terry Sterrett, Owensboro, Ky. (Crazy Thing Two).

H Class (7 litre) 1—Billy Sterrett, Owensboro, Ky. (Crazy Thing); 2—Marion Cooper, Louisville, Ky. (Louisville Kid; Dayton); 2. Cliff Reif (Dayton); 3. shine Baby). **Moonshine Baby**

"We don't race for money though," said Jim Sterett. "It is just a hobby. We always take a 6-man crew with us when we race. And since you don't make much money in these classes, we usually come out in the hole. We just enjoy racing."

The Steretts, members of the Dayton Motorboat association since its founding, joined several other area members in winning first place trophies.

DEAN CHENOWETH of Xenia, seven times national champion in the outboards, took the 280 cu. in., Class E hydroplanes with his "Little Wide Track." It was Chenoweth's first victory with the boat.

DAYTONIAN JON CULVER continued his lead in the national JJ standings by edging Cliff Reif, also of Dayton. Culver and Reif teamed up earlier this year to win the 240-mile Hudson River Marathon. Culver averaged 69 mph in his twin motored JJ140 for yesterday's 6 laps.

Jim Roberts of Dayton took two heats in the 145 cu. in. class with "The Wild One" earning